Gmail MDS <maxieds@gmail.com>

My pointy haired adviser says one thing, thus tempting me to do another

8 messages

Maxie Schmidt <maxieds@gmail.com> Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 1:15 PM
To: Bruce Reznick <bruce.reznick@gmail.com>

Bruce,

Michael has some vague points over the phone which are not justified in his actual notes (attached). I will just be point blank about what he is doing: He is threatening me and trying to intimidate me on this issue. It is better for him that I do not succeed in this problem for it will make his-self (and Croutons, the ex) look bad in the process. I know what they do.

Can you please (**very, sincerely, pretty please**) ask Kevin Ford, or anyone else reasonable and in expert territory at UIUC, if he/she would be willing to look at a substantially improved draft and argument in all its detail and offer me good insight? It is definitely treading on newer ground from Montgomery and Vaughan. It might take cornering him personally and asking him (her) point blank if he can do that and keep the matter confidential. I know he is busy, but Michael understands number theory so poorly that his inane rhetoric on the subject only inspires me to curse aloud and call him stupid, point blank, but not yet to his face on the topic. You are free to convey this subtle point to Kevin if you think he is a decent human being and would benefit from knowing about the situation that way. Michael just doesn't get it, or is intentionally toeing the professorial (ahole) line to stalwart for the team and screw me in particular. I don't like this and don't really know better venues in which to proceed...

I am half tempted to just submit a revised draft to a good number theory journal (other than JNT). Do you have any suggestions for journals? IJNT, maybe?

Maxie

mertens-lower-bounds-2020.08.18-v1.pdf
18930K

Maxie Schmidt <maxieds@gmail.com> Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 1:29 PM
To: Bruce Reznick <bruce.reznick@gmail.com>

P.S.: A properly typeset version of the draft (with a correction for some missing constant multiples). Also, a revised version of a manuscript they requested me to make based on referee feedback at INTEGERS.

Maxie
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2 attachments

mertens-lower-bounds-2020.08.30-v1.pdf
829K

divisor-sigma-formulas-2020.08.30-v1.pdf
340K

Bruce Reznick <bruce.reznick@gmail.com> Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 1:37 PM
To: Maxie Schmidt <maxieds@gmail.com>

Hi, Maxie. Knowing Kevin, I'd suggest this approach: write to him, apologize for your negative comments about your advisor (however justified they were,
he took serious objection to them on principle because such comments usually don't show up in mathematical correspondence).

By the way, Kevin is giving a seminar talk on Thursday at 11am Eastern; you can get a link from this website

https://sites.google.com/view/ntwebseminar/home

or go back later and watch it asynchronously from the "Previous Talks" tab.

Submitting it to IJNT is a reasonable idea also. They're publishing the proceedings of the Berndt conference in which my sums of cubes of quadratic forms
paper will appear.

I also got your ps. Thanks. I will print your papers out.

Bruce
[Quoted text hidden]

Maxie Schmidt <maxieds@gmail.com> Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 2:00 PM
To: Bruce Reznick <bruce.reznick@gmail.com>

I don't recall doing that in front of him, but it is possible. This is what I sent him based on your suggestion at any rate:

> I spoke with Bruce Reznick about the possibility of asking you or another expert in number theory at UIUC to reread a draft of my manuscript on new bounds on the Mertens function. I would like to clearly apologize to you for any negative remarks I had made about my adviser at GA Tech, Michael Lacey, another famous alumnus of my alma mater. I did not intend for you to get the wrong impression about things nor to turn you off at my research on those grounds.
>
> I am going to make a point to watch the seminar you are giving this Thursday after it is recorded.
>
> Would you please consider reading a vastly improved draft of this research? It draws upon new-ish type material and constructions from Montgomery and Vaughan. In this sense the approach is very new and at least novel in the way it draws upon crucially additive functions and their distributions. I also believe it works well to establish these bounds in a unique new way. I can work around your schedule to provide a finalized version in the next few weeks, if that works well for you.
>
> Again, I am sorry to have conveyed the wrong idea in making negative comments about my adviser. I was just frustrated at the time and did not mean do this in front of you like that.
>
> Thanks. Stay safe.
>
> Sincerely,

Anything else I should add if he responds?

Maxie
[Quoted text hidden]

Bruce Reznick <bruce.reznick@gmail.com> Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 2:09 PM
To: Maxie Schmidt <maxieds@gmail.com>

No, Maxie. That looks great. I hope you get a positive response. -- Bruce
[Quoted text hidden]

Maxie Schmidt <maxieds@gmail.com> Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 4:19 PM
To: Bruce Reznick <bruce.reznick@gmail.com>

Bruce,

Thanks. Here is a zipped snapshot of the computational data that goes along with the article (cited as a reference). It is currently archived privately on my GitHub, The Mathematica notebooks will probably be more useful to you than the Sage and Python3 scripts, but they are there nonetheless.

Maxie
[Quoted text hidden]

MertensFunctionComputations-0.0.1-manuscript.zip
984K

Maxie Schmidt <maxieds@gmail.com> Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 5:10 PM
To: Bruce Reznick <bruce.reznick@gmail.com>

Bruce,

Also, here is a Lacey-draft edited version incorporating the few points he had about grammar into things. Please print this version when you have a chance.

Maxie
[Quoted text hidden]

mertens-lower-bounds-2020.08.30-v2.pdf
829K

Bruce Reznick <bruce.reznick@gmail.com> Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 5:12 PM
To: Maxie Schmidt <maxieds@gmail.com>

Maxie -- OK, thanks. -- Bruce
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